

Whereas suppressing the freedom to read and denying access to literature, history, and knowledge are inherently illiberal and anti-democratic tactics used by authoritarian regimes against their people;

Whereas book bans often seek to impose restrictions on all students and families based on the political, ideological, or cultural preferences of the individuals calling for book bans;

Whereas book bans have multifaceted, harmful consequences on—

(1) students, who have a right to access a diverse range of stories and perspectives, including students from historically marginalized backgrounds whose communities are often underrepresented in literature;

(2) educators and librarians, who are operating in some States in an increasingly punitive and surveillance-oriented environment with a chilling effect on teaching and learning;

(3) authors whose works are targeted; and

(4) parents who want students to attend public schools that remain open to curiosity, discovery, and the freedom to read;

Whereas classic and award-winning literature and books that have been part of school curricula for decades have been challenged, removed from libraries pending review, or outright banned from schools, including—

(1) “*Brave New World*” by Aldous Huxley;

(2) “*The Handmaid’s Tale*” by Margaret Atwood;

(3) “*Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*”, adapted by Ari Folman;

(4) “*Their Eyes Were Watching God*” by Zora Neal Hurston;

(5) “*To Kill a Mockingbird*” by Harper Lee; and

(6) “*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” by Mark Twain;

Whereas books face a heightened risk of being banned, particularly when written by and about outsiders, newcomers, and individuals from marginalized backgrounds;

Whereas 674 books referring to LGBTQ+ themes or with LGBTQ+ characters, including books that recognize the equal humanity and dignity of all individuals despite differences, have been banned or otherwise restricted in the United States this year, including—

(1) “*Families, Families, Families!*” by Suzanne Lang; and

(2) “*All Are Welcome*” by Alexandria Penfold;

Whereas 659 books, both fiction and nonfiction, with protagonists of color or prominent secondary characters of color have been banned or otherwise restricted in the United States this year, including—

(1) “*Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story*” by Ruby Bridges;

(2) “*Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March on Washington*” by Francis E. Ruffin;

(3) “*Thank You, Jackie Robinson*” by Barbara Cohen;

(4) “*Malala: A Hero For All*” by Shana Corey;

(5) “*Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*” by Kevin Noble Maillard;

(6) “*Hair Love*” by Matthew A. Cherry;

(7) “*Good Trouble: Lessons From the Civil Rights Playbook*” by Christopher Noxon; and

(8) “*We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures*”;

Whereas the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund has reported a dramatic surge in challenges at libraries and schools to the inclusion of graphic novels that depict the vital diversity of civic life in the United States and the painful historical realities of the human experience, including—

(1) “*New Kid*” by Jerry Craft;

(2) “*Drama*” by Raina Telgemeier;

(3) “*American Born Chinese*” by Gene Luen Yang; and

(4) “*Maus*” by Art Spiegelman;

Whereas books addressing death, grief, mental illness, and suicide are targeted alongside nonfiction books that discuss feelings and emotions written for teenage and young adult audiences that frequently confront these topics;

Whereas the Secretary of Education of Oklahoma is seeking to revoke the teaching certificate of an educator who merely provided to her students a link to the Books Unbanned initiative of the Brooklyn Public Library, which provides young people across the country access to books that may be banned or otherwise restricted in schools;

Whereas, during congressional hearings on April 7, 2022, and May 19, 2022, students, parents, teachers, librarians, and school administrators testified to the chilling and fear-inducing effects that book bans have on education and the school environment;

Whereas, according to PEN America, during the 2021–2022 school year, approximately 140 school districts in 32 States issued more than 2,500 book bans or other restrictions, including repeated titles, affecting more than 5,000 individual schools and approximately 4,000,000 students, limiting access to certain books for limited or indefinite periods of time, including—

(1) Florida, where at least 566 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 21 school districts;

(2) Georgia, where at least 23 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 2 school districts;

(3) Indiana, where at least 18 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 3 school districts;

(4) Kansas, where at least 30 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 2 school districts;

(5) Michigan, where at least 41 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 4 school districts;

(6) Missouri, where at least 27 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 8 school districts;

(7) New York, where at least 123 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 34 school districts;

(8) Oklahoma, where at least 43 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 3 school districts;

(9) Pennsylvania, where at least 457 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 11 school districts;

(10) Tennessee, where at least 349 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 6 school districts;

(11) Texas, where at least 801 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 22 school districts;

(12) Utah, where at least 1,211 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 3 school districts; and

(13) Virginia, where at least 169 books in total have been banned or otherwise restricted in 79 school districts;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of voters in the United States oppose book bans;

Whereas an overwhelming majority of voters in the United States support educators teaching about the Civil Rights Movement, the history and experiences of Native Americans, enslaved Africans, immigrants facing discrimination, and the ongoing effects of racism;

Whereas, in 1969, the Supreme Court of the United States held in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969), that students do not “shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate”; and

Whereas, while library collections may be curated based on a variety of factors, including pedagogical value, student interest, and the age-appropriateness of the material, in 1982, a plurality of the Supreme Court of the United States held in *Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982), that schools may not remove books based on “narrowly partisan or political grounds”, as this kind of censorship will result in “official suppression of ideas”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferation of threats to freedom of expression in the United States;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting the freedom of expression of writers and the freedom of all individuals in the United States to read books without government censorship;

(3) calls on local governments and educational institutions to follow best practice guidelines when addressing challenges to books; and

(4) calls on local governments and educational institutions to protect the rights of students to learn and the ability of educators and librarians to teach students, including by providing students with the opportunity to read a wide array of books reflecting a multitude of viewpoints and perspectives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 839—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 839

Whereas stomach cancer, also known as gastric cancer, is one of the most difficult cancers to detect in the early stages of the disease, which contributes to high mortality rates;

Whereas stomach cancer occurs when cancer cells develop in the lining of the stomach;

Whereas stomach cancer is the fifth most common type of cancer worldwide;

Whereas, in 2022, an estimated—

(1) 26,380 cases of stomach cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and

(2) 11,090 individuals in the United States will die from stomach cancer;

Whereas the estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 32.4 percent, and when diagnosed at a late, or distant, stage, the 5-year survival rate is just 6 percent;

Whereas, in the United States, stomach cancer is more prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities;

Whereas initial diagnosis of stomach cancer is often delayed because up to 80 percent of patients are asymptomatic during early stages;

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among patients and health care providers could improve timely recognition of stomach cancer symptoms;

Whereas more research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer is needed; and

Whereas November 2022 is an appropriate month to observe Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month;

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer

among the general public of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages States, territories, and localities of the United States to support the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 840—SUPPORTING AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AND LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2022

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 840

Whereas more than 30,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including experiences that encourage the study of science, technology, engineering, and math that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas, during the COVID-19 crisis, afterschool programs have risen to the moment to support children by—

- (1) innovating to provide virtual programming to keep children engaged;
- (2) caring for children of essential workers;
- (3) providing meals and learning supports;
- (4) supporting the well-being of children and families; and
- (5) helping students recover and accelerating learning;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning opportunities provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating schools with the larger community; and

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities programs was held on October 20, 2022, to highlight the critical importance of those high-quality programs to children and the families and communities of those children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 20, 2022.

SENATE RESOLUTION 841—RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2022 AS “NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH”

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING,

Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 841

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have declared October 2022 to be “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement clear missions, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas principals demonstrated leadership and played important roles in meeting the needs of students, families, and communities during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school improvement effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes October 2022 as “National Principals Month”;
- (2) honors the contributions of principals in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the United States; and
- (3) supports the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 842—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 842

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the “CDC”)—

- (1) 37,300,000 individuals in the United States have diabetes; and
- (2) an estimated 96,000,000 individuals in the United States who are 18 years of age or older have prediabetes;

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects individuals of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that—

- (1) Hispanic, Black, Asian, American Indian, and Alaska Native adults in the United States are disproportionately affected by diabetes and develop the disease at much higher rates than the general population of the United States; and
- (2) an estimated 23 percent of individuals with diabetes in the United States have not yet been diagnosed with the disease;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 11.3 percent of the population, including 29.2 percent of individuals who are 65 years of age or older, have diabetes;

Whereas, of the approximately 19,000,000 veterans in the United States, 1 in 4 are re-

ceiving care for diabetes from the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the risk of developing diabetes at some point in life is 40 percent for adults in the United States;

Whereas, according to the American Diabetes Association, the United States spent an estimated \$237,000,000,000 on direct medical costs for cases of diagnosed diabetes in 2017, and out-of-pocket costs for insulin have grown significantly in recent years for many patients;

Whereas the American Diabetes Association reports that care for people with diagnosed diabetes accounts for 1 in 4 health care dollars spent in the United States;

Whereas the cost of health care is estimated to be 2.3 times higher for individuals in the United States with diabetes than those without diabetes;

Whereas, as of November 2022, a cure for diabetes does not exist;

Whereas there are successful means to reduce the incidence, and delay the onset, of type 2 diabetes;

Whereas, with proper management and treatment, individuals with diabetes live healthy and productive lives; and

Whereas individuals in the United States celebrate American Diabetes Month in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, including—

(A) encouraging individuals in the United States to fight diabetes through public awareness of prevention and treatment options; and

- (B) enhancing diabetes education;
- (2) recognizes the importance of awareness and early detection, including awareness of symptoms and risk factors such as—

- (A) being—
 - (i) older than 45 years of age; or
 - (ii) overweight; and
- (B) having—
 - (i) a particular racial and ethnic background;
 - (ii) a low level of physical activity;
 - (iii) high blood pressure;
 - (iv) a family history of diabetes; or
 - (v) a history of diabetes during pregnancy;

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes in the United States through research, treatment, and prevention; and

(4) recognizes the importance of addressing systemic barriers to health care that—

- (A) leave many vulnerable communities at a heightened risk for diabetes; and
- (B) limit access to health care resources that are needed to effectively prevent the onset, and to manage the condition, of diabetes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 843—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 7, 2022 AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK”

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 843

Whereas all children and youth learn best when they are healthy, supported, and receive an education that meets their individual needs;

Whereas schools can more effectively ensure that all students are ready and able to learn if schools meet all the needs of each student;